

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-9, and 11-12 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1, 4-6, and 11-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai (USP 5,874,012) in view of Kyoko et al. (JP 08-185997). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In Kanai, an inner cylinder (6) is held against an inner wall surface of an outer cylinder (5) by springs (31, 33) fixed at a lower end portion and an upper end portion of the inner cylinder (6). A corrugated plate (30) is inserted between the outer cylinder (5) and the inner cylinder (6). The springs (31, 33) not only absorb a difference in thermal expansion between the outer cylinder (5) and the inner cylinder (6), but also increase a contact force between the corrugated plate (30) and both cylinders (5) and (6). That is, the contact force is given so as to make the corrugated plate (30) contacting by a line contact, preferably by a surface contact, to both cylinders (5, 6) in order to *increase* heat transfer between the outer cylinder (5) and the inner cylinder (6). Thus the springs (31, 33) are required to make the contact force at least between the corrugated plate (30) and both cylinders (5, 6).

Kyoko discloses an adhesion proof cylinder (7b) having a plurality of overhang partials (7c; projections) provided on an upper bed part thereof. The projections of Kyoko, however, make no contact with force. In addition, both Kanai and Kyoko fail to disclose or suggest, and provide no motivation and teaching to reduce a heat transfer. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that one skill in the art would not apply the projections of Kyoko to an apparatus of Kanai.

Further, in Kyoko, a ceiling plate provided at a top of a chamber (3) cannot be removed from the chamber (3). Therefore, to remove the adhesion proof cylinder (7b), it is necessary to pull down the adhesion proof cylinder (7b) from the chamber (3). In such a situation, it is unable to provide the projections in a lower end of the wall surface protecting member and the chamber step portion, which supports the wall surface protecting member from below, because they would interfere with removal of the wall surface protecting member from the chamber. Therefore, it would not have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide the projections in the lower end of the wall surface protecting member based on overhang partials (7c) on the upper bed part of the adhesion proof cylinder (7b).

In contrast, in the claimed invention of the present application, a plurality of projections is provided on an outer wall surface and in a lower end portion of the wall surface protecting member for point-contacting the inner wall surface of the chamber and the chamber step portion in order to suppress heat transfer. Thus, an effect and advantages of the present invention is clearly different from Kanai and Kyoko. In addition, such configuration produces an effect that a burden on maintenance is reduced because the wall surface protecting member just sits on the chamber step portion and it is easy to remove the wall surface protecting member and just sits on the chamber step portion, and it is easy to remove the wall surface protecting member from the inside of the chamber after removing a ceiling plate provided at the top of the chamber.

In view of this, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over the cited references.

Claims 4-6 and 11-12, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Kyoko, and further in view of Shibasaki (JP 2002-222767). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 7 and 8, variously dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanai in view of Kyoko, and further in view of Kazuo et al. (JP 07-283143). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Amendment After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

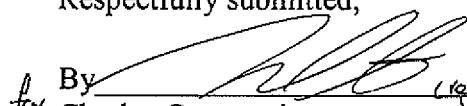
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi Reg. No. 40,417 at

the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: March 28, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

for  (Reg. # 40,417)
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